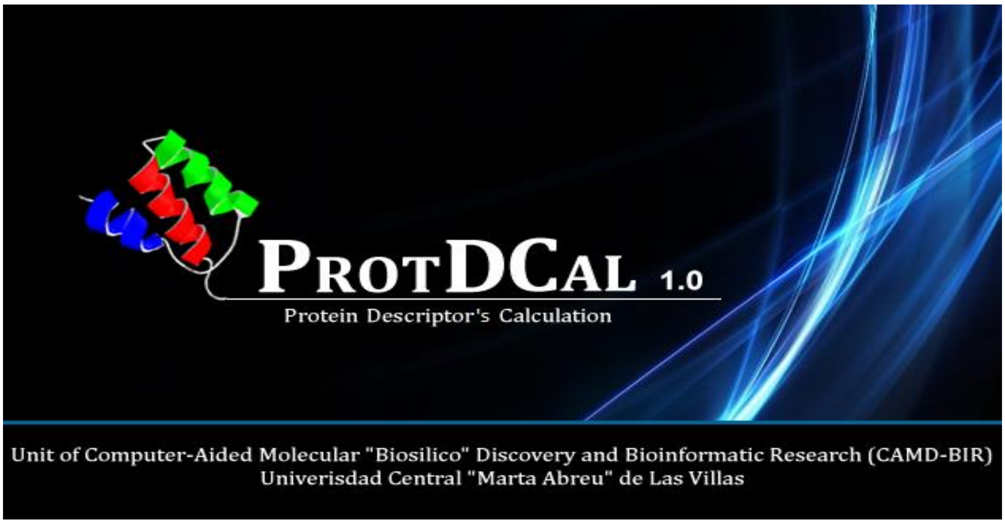
ProtDCal

A Program for **Prot**ein **D**escriptors **Cal**culation

USER MANUAL


PROTDCAL 1.0
Protein Descriptor's Calculation
Unit of Computer-Aided Molecular "Biosilico" Discovery and Bioinformatic Research (CAMD-BIR)
Univerisdad Central "Marta Abreu" de Las Villas

CONTENT TABLE

ABOUT US ... **3**
GETTING STARTED ... **3**
WORKSPACE ... **5**
BASIC ENVIRONMENT ... **6**
  Indices Panel ... 7
  Groups Panel ... 10
  Aggregation Operators Panel ... 10
DESCRIPTION OF MENUS ... **12**
OUTPUT FILES ... **17**
PARAMETERS CONFIGURATION ... **18**
  Organizing the output file ... 19
PROJECTS ... **19**
  Project Structure ... 19
  Loading a project ... 25
USER-SPECIFIED INDICES ... **25**
USER-SPECIFIED GROUPS ... **26**
EXECUTING CALCULATIONS ... **27**
BASIC MODELING WORKFLOW USING PROTDCAL AND WEKA ... **28**
  Exemplification in the prediction of N-glycosylation ... 28

ABOUT US

ProtDCal is a protein-modeling platform developed and maintained in the Unit of Computer-Aided Molecular Discovery and Bioinformatics Research (CAMD-BIR) of the Universidad Central “Marta Abreu” de Las Villas (UCLV) and the Department of Systems & Computer Engineering of Carleton University (CU).

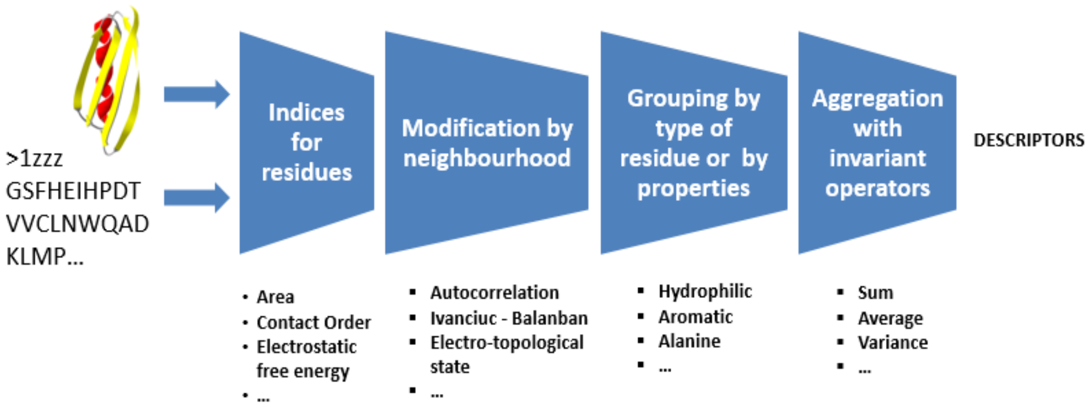
Project members:
Yasser B. Ruiz-Blanco (yasserrb@uclv.edu.cu) (UCLV)
Waldo Paz Rodriguez (waldopaz@uclv.cu) (UCLV)
Yovani Marrero-ponce, Ph.D. (ymarrero77@yahoo.es) (UCLV)
James Green, Ph.D. (jrgreen@sce.carleton.ca) (CU)

Citations:
Ruiz-Blanco, Y. B, et al., *ProtDCal: A Program to Compute General-Purpose-Numerical Descriptors for Sequences and 3D-Structures of Proteins*. BMC Bioinformatics, 2015. Submitted.
Ruiz-Blanco, Y.B., et al., *A Hooke′s law-based approach to protein folding rate.* Journal of Theoretical Biology, 2015. **364**: p. 407-417.
Ruiz-Blanco, Y.B., et al., *A physics-based scoring function for protein structural decoys: Dynamic testing on targets of CASP-ROLL.* Chemical Physics Letters, 2014. **610–611**: p. 135-140.
Ruiz-Blanco, Y.B., et al., *Global Stability of Protein Folding from an Empirical Free Energy Function.* Journal of Theoretical Biology, 2013. **321**: p. 44-53.

GETTING STARTED

ProtDCal is a user-friendly software package that was developed to generate a variety of numeric descriptors for protein structures and sequences. This manual is intended to provide an overview of the main interfaces and functionalities of the program. As part of the current distribution of ProtDCal, one can find a similar tutorial and a theory section describing the formalism and parameters of the indices implemented in the program.

ProtDCal’s feature generation strategy comprises four hierarchical levels:


>1zzz
GSFHEIHPDT
VVCLNWQAD
KLMP…
Indices for residues
Modification by neighbourhood
Grouping by type of residue or by properties
Aggregation with invariant operators
DESCRIPTORS
Area
Contact Order
Electrostatic free energy
…
Autocorrelation
Ivanciuc - Balanban
Electro-topological state
…
Hydrophilic
Aromatic
Alanine
…
Sum
Average
Variance
…

i) An initial layer intended to select the type of indices to encode for each residue. These indices are grouped in three main classes:

Thermodynamics, which are almost all novel indices designed in our laboratory based on an empirical model of the main factors involved in the stability of protein structures. These indices are, in turn, divided into two panels grouping, on one side, those that are defined for 3D folded structures and on the other side, those based on information relating to the protein sequence. These indices refer to the contribution of the folded and unfolded (reference) states of a protein chain.

Topographic, which include many of the contact-based descriptors with proven correlation with the protein folding rate constant, e. g. the relative contact order (CO), the total contact distance (TCD), the cliquishness (CLQ), etc. These indices were defined originally as global metrics, however, they were modified to obtain a value for each residue of a protein. Each contact of the protein is weighted by a determined residue property selected in this interface. The weighting procedure is conducted by multiplying the values of the selected property for both residues that are in contact.

Property-based indices, this final group encloses a number of chemical-physical and structural properties of each type of residue such as hydrophobicity, electronic charge index, molar weight, volume, isotropic surface area, etc.

ii) *Modification operators,* these approaches are intended to modify the value of a selected index for a given residue according to the residues within a vicinity defined by the type of modification operator and its parameter value (e.g. for the autocorrelation operator with parameter k = 2, the neighbourhood of residue *i* comprises the residues in positions *i* ± 2). . ProtDCal implements five modification operators that can be selected in the Menu: '*Options/Weighting operators*'.

iii) A third layer named 'Groups' is intended to select one or more groups of residues according their ID or type. When a group of residues is selected, an array of index values is obtained corresponding to the residues in the group. In addition to the implemented grouping approaches, an option is included by which users can define their own groups of residues (see the option *Groups* in menu *Option*).

iv) A fourth layer comprises several aggregation operators that are used to combine an array of values (from a group of residues) into a single value (descriptor) reflecting the distribution of the index within that group. Some examples of these aggregation operators are the sum, average, variance, kurtosis, geometric mean, information content, etc.

The output of the calculation shows the full combination of indices, groups and aggregation operators selected in each panel. The input file formats of the software can be either PDB or FASTA; for PDB files, all indices can be computed, whereas for FASTA files, only the indices of the second (Thermodynamics indices for sequences) and fourth (Properties-based indices) panels can be evaluated. Multiple proteins may be input simultaneously. The output files of ProtDCal calculations are two tab-delimited text documents named <name>_AA.txt and <name>_Prot.txt which store all the descriptors for each residue of each protein and the descriptors for the combinations of indices, groups, and aggregation operators for each protein respectively.

WORKSPACE

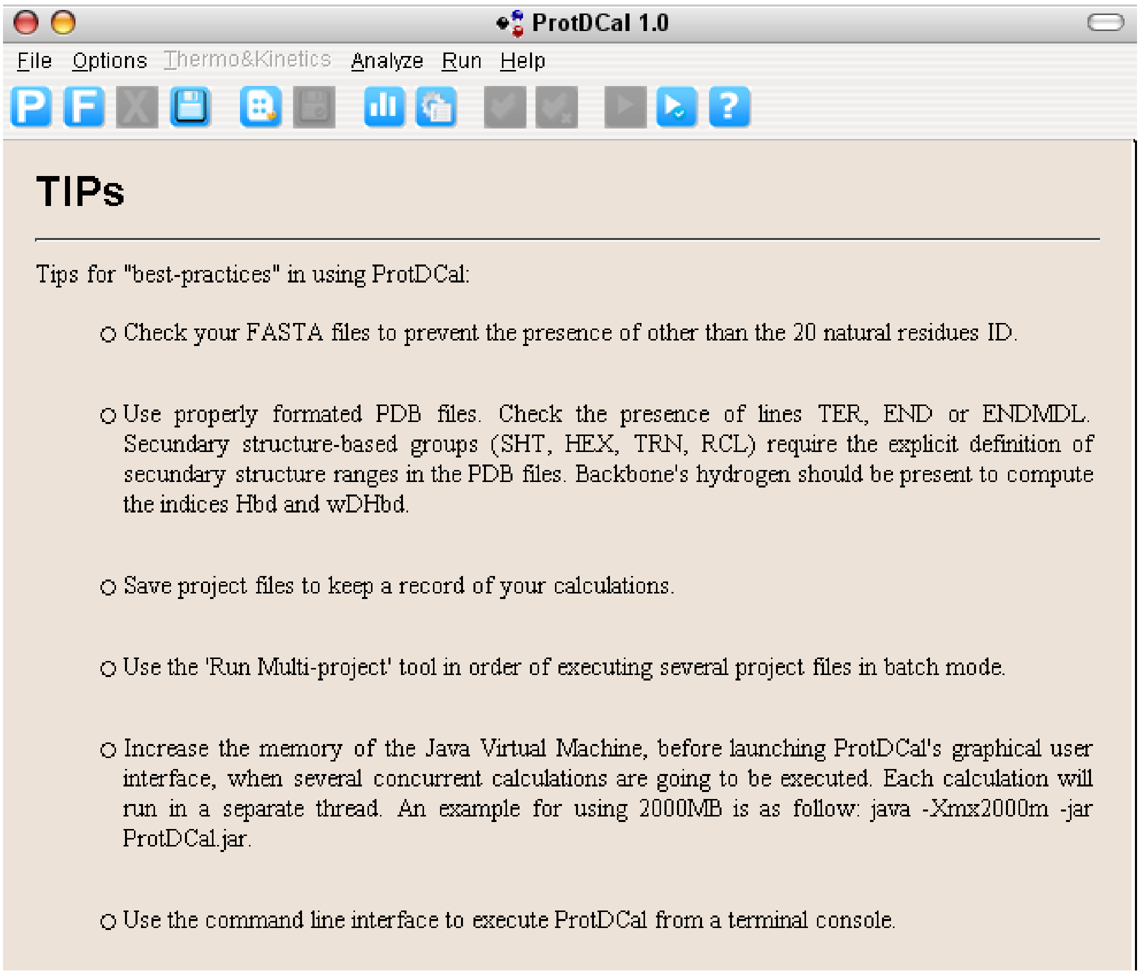
The ProtDCal workspace consists of the program folders:

- Datasets: Containing all the input data files in PDB or FASTA format.
- Outputs: Containing the output files of the program (<name>_AA, <name>_Prot, etc.).

- Projects: Containing all project files (<name>.proj).
- Help: Containing all the documentation files about the program and descriptors.

BASIC ENVIRONMENT

When the application is executed, the following launch screen is displayed:

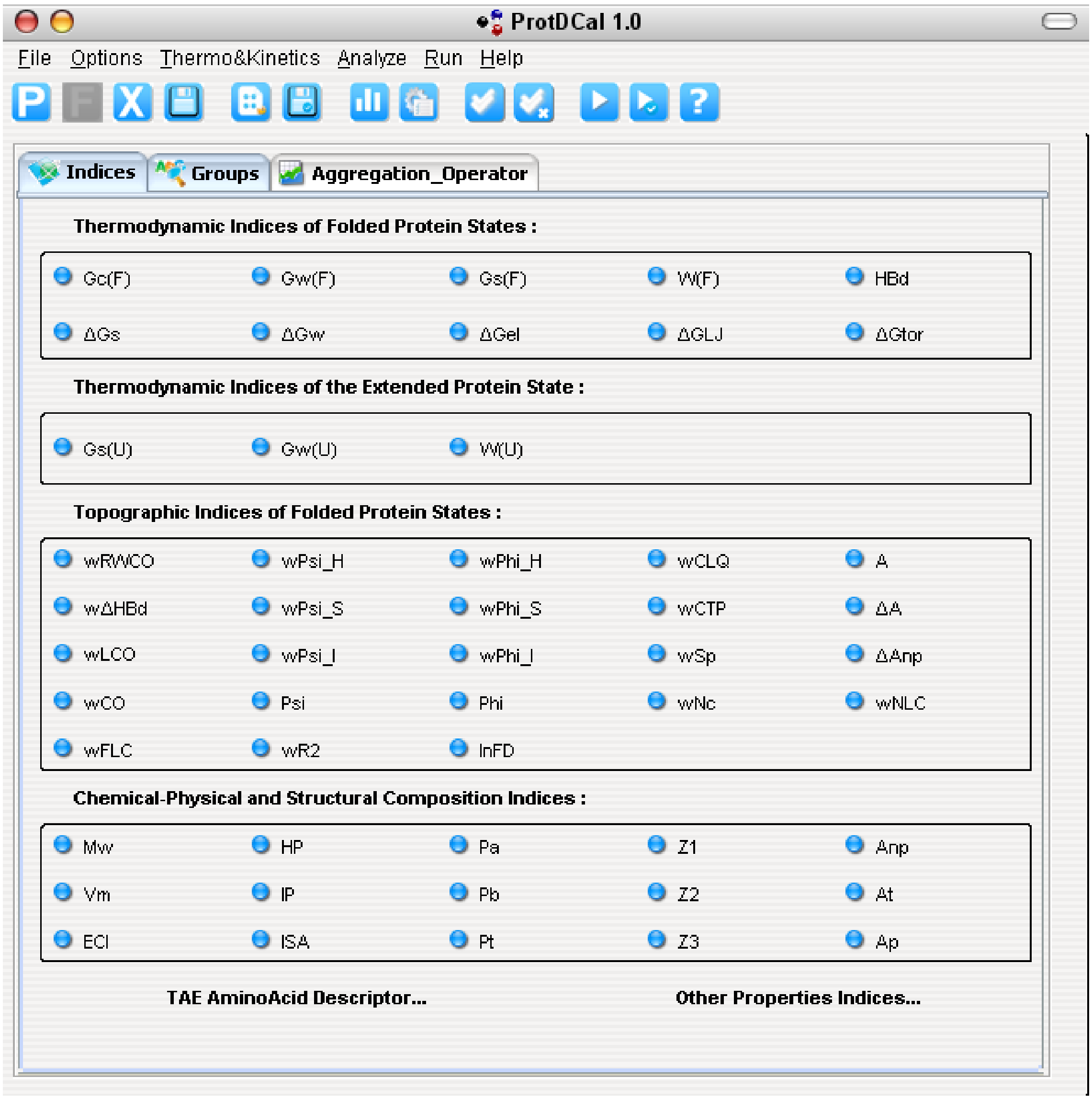


TIPs

Tips for "best-practices" in using ProtDCal:

- ○ Check your FASTA files to prevent the presence of other than the 20 natural residues ID.
- ○ Use properly formated PDB files. Check the presence of lines TER, END or ENDMDL. Secundary structure-based groups (SHT, HEX, TRN, RCL) require the explicit definition of secundary structure ranges in the PDB files. Backbone's hydrogen should be present to compute the indices Hbd and wDHbd.
- ○ Save project files to keep a record of your calculations.
- ○ Use the 'Run Multi-project' tool in order of executing several project files in batch mode.
- ○ Increase the memory of the Java Virtual Machine, before launching ProtDCal's graphical user interface, when several concurrent calculations are going to be executed. Each calculation will run in a separate thread. An example for using 2000MB is as follow: java -Xmx2000m -jar ProtDCal.jar.
- ○ Use the command line interface to execute ProtDCal from a terminal console.

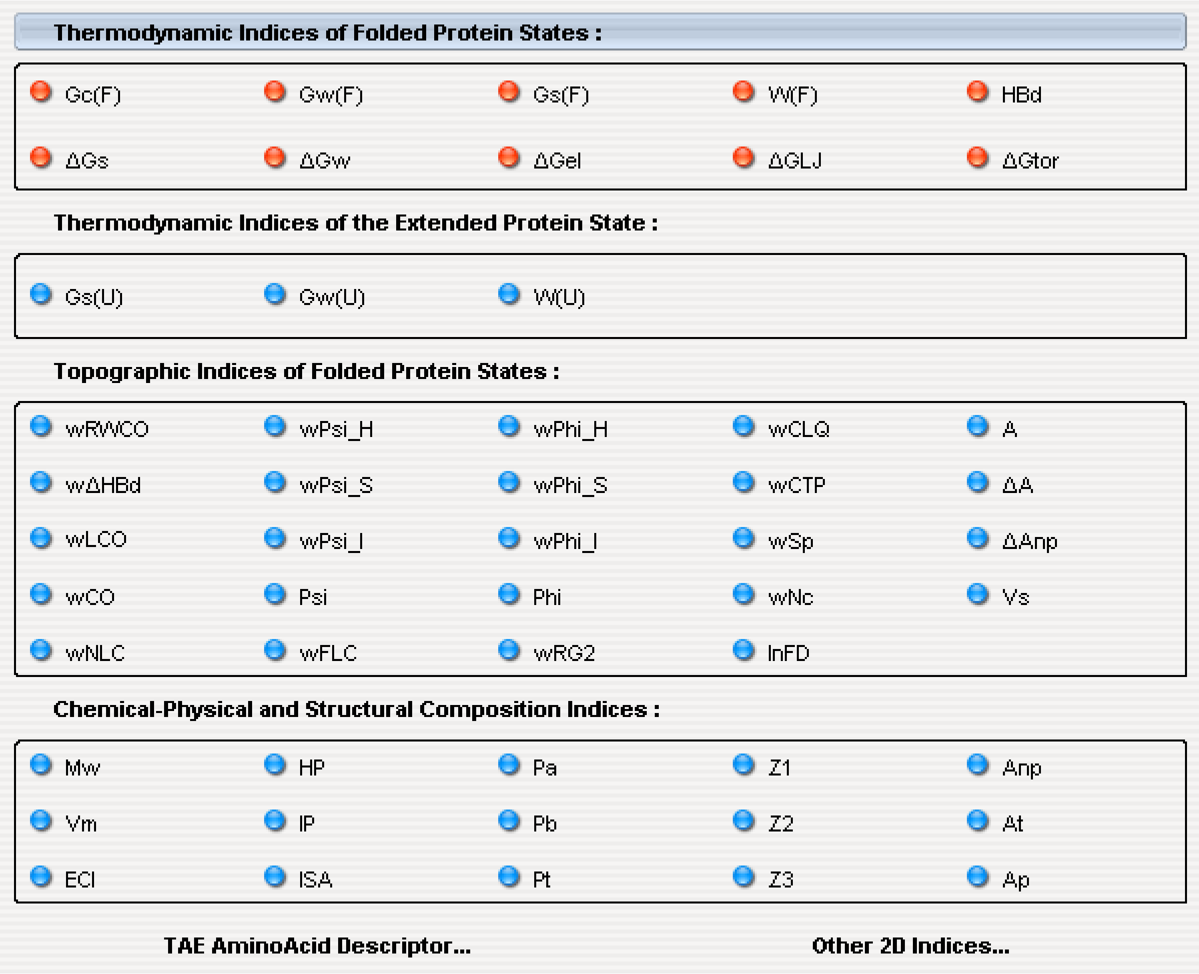
Once a dataset is uploaded, the interface provides access to the available indices depending on the input file type (PDB or FASTA format). The next figure depicts the interface with access to all type of indices, as is obtained when PDB files are used:


ProtDCal 1.0
File Options Thermo&Kinetics Analyze Run Help
Indices
Groups
Aggregation_Operator
Thermodynamic Indices of Folded Protein States :
Gc(F) Gw(F) Gs(F) W(F) HBd
ΔGs ΔGw ΔGel ΔGLJ ΔGtor
Thermodynamic Indices of the Extended Protein State :
Gs(U) Gw(U) W(U)
Topographic Indices of Folded Protein States :
wRWCO wPsi_H wPhi_H wCLQ A
wΔHBd wPsi_S wPhi_S wCTP ΔA
wLCO wPsi_I wPhi_I wSp ΔAnp
wCO Psi Phi wNc wNLC
wFLC wR2 lnFD
Chemical-Physical and Structural Composition Indices :
Mw HP Pa Z1 Anp
Vm IP Pb Z2 At
ECI ISA Pt Z3 Ap
TAE AminoAcid Descriptor...
Other Properties Indices...

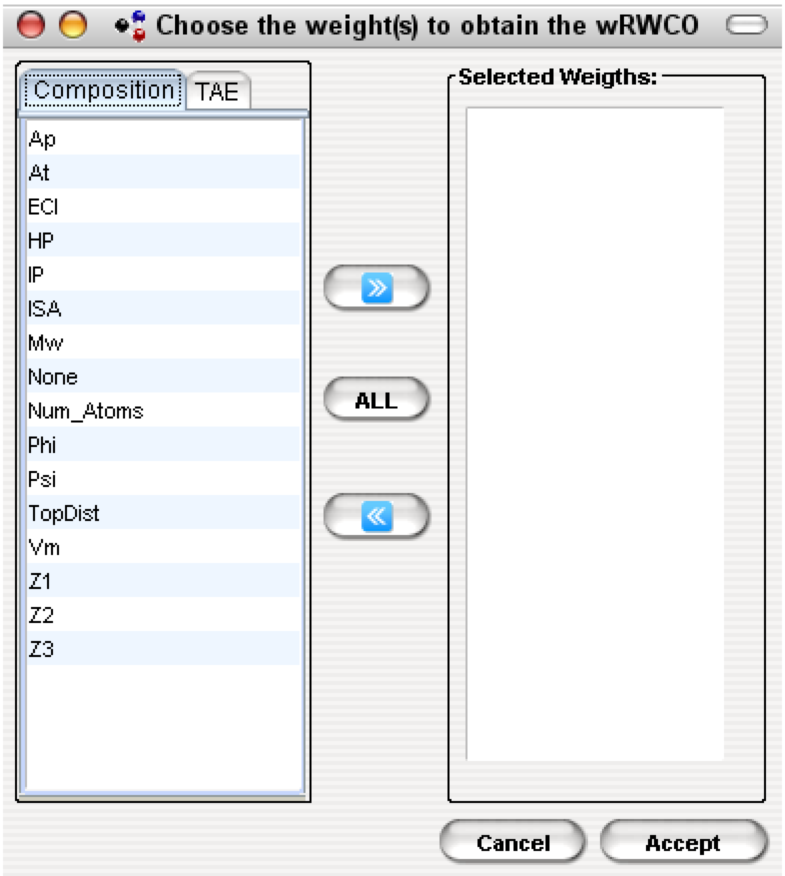
The panels below the toolbar represent the three of the hierarchical levels described above (*Modification Operators* are accessed via the *Options* menu). When you mouse over each element, a brief text description pops up explaining its functionality. Panels (indices, groups and aggregation operators) are subdivided, according to their nature, into several subpanels.

Indices Panel

The panel of indices is divided into four subpanels (Thermodynamic Indices for Structures, Thermodynamic Indices for Sequences, Topographic Indices, and Properties-based Indices).

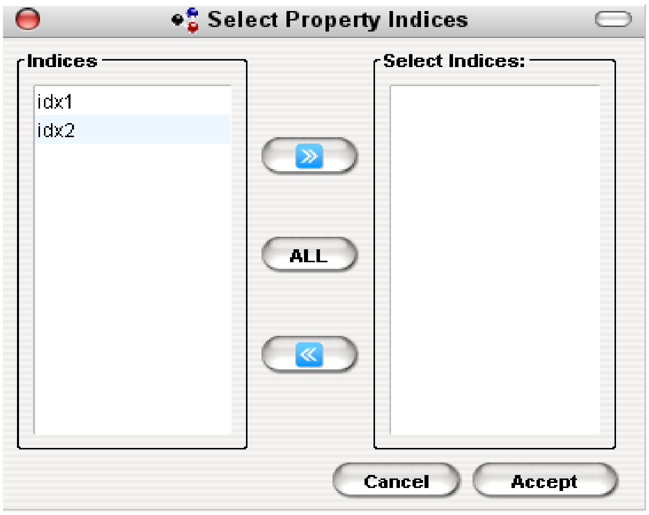

Thermodynamic Indices of Folded Protein States :
Gc(F)
Gw(F)
Gs(F)
W(F)
HBd
ΔGs
ΔGw
ΔGel
ΔGLJ
ΔGtor
Thermodynamic Indices of the Extended Protein State :
Gs(U)
Gw(U)
W(U)
Topographic Indices of Folded Protein States :
wRWCO
wPsi_H
wPhi_H
wCLQ
A
wΔHBd
wPsi_S
wPhi_S
wCTP
ΔA
wLCO
wPsi_I
wPhi_I
wSp
ΔAnp
wCO
Psi
Phi
wNc
Vs
wNLC
wFLC
wRG2
lnFD
Chemical-Physical and Structural Composition Indices :
Mw
HP
Pa
Z1
Anp
Vm
IP
Pb
Z2
At
ECI
ISA
Pt
Z3
Ap
TAE AminoAcid Descriptor...
Other 2D Indices...

In the Topographic Indices subpanel, there are several weighted indices (starting with the letter "w"), that can be calculated using one or several weights for inter-residue contacts. The following figure shows the window intended for selecting the properties to be used as weights for contacts. This window appears every time one of these weighted indices is selected, in such a way that different properties can be selected for different indices. Alternatively, if many indices will use the same weighting properties, one could first select all the topographic indices at once by clicking the button 'Topographic Indices of Folded Protein States', which launches the properties window once, and then the user may deselect the non-desired indices. These indices will be identified in the outputs as follows: *"index_name(weight)"*.


Choose the weight(s) to obtain the wRWCO
Composition
TAE
Ap
At
ECI
HP
IP
ISA
Mw
None
Num_Atoms
Phi
Psi
TopDist
Vm
Z1
Z2
Z3
ALL
Selected Weigths:
Cancel
Accept

Other indices can be computed using the *"TAE Amino acid Descriptor..."* and "Other Indices..." buttons located at the end of the panel. The first option, calculates the Transferable Atom Equivalent (TAE) indices, which are available in: http://reccr.chem.rpi.edu/Software/Protein-Recon/TAE.doc.

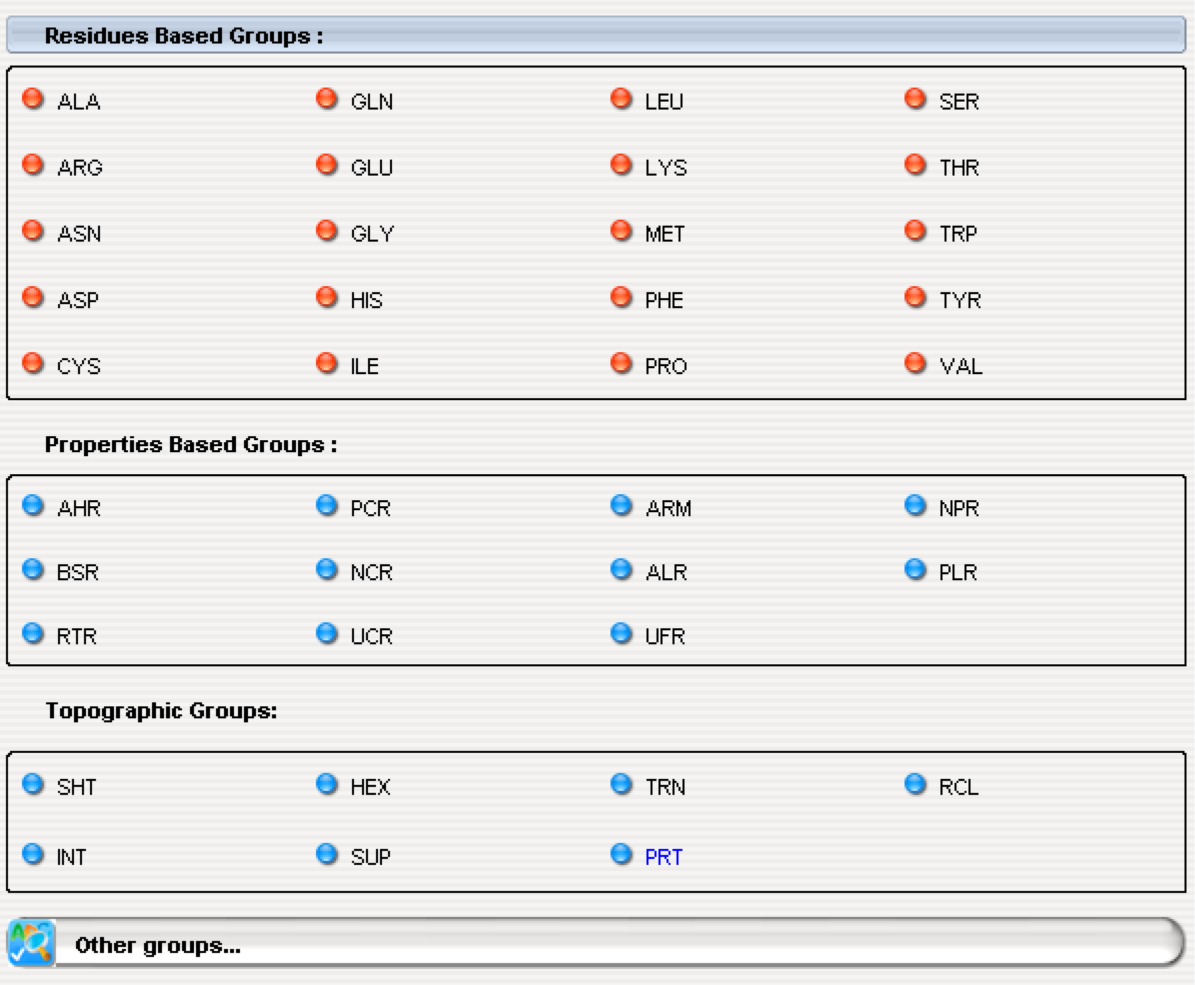
The second option computes user-defined properties (see Creating new Properties) using the *"Define new indices"* option located in the menu *"Option/Manage Indices".* This option activates the following window:


Select Property Indices
Indices
idx1
idx2
ALL
Select Indices:
Cancel
Accept

In this window the buttons: «, **ALL** and » help to select previously defined indices.

Groups Panel

In the panel of groups there are three subpanels enclosing groups formed by residue ID, chemical-physical properties and topographic features. Also with the button: *"Others groups..."*, is possible to select previously defined groups (see Define new groups).



Residues Based Groups :

● ALA	● GLN	● LEU	● SER
● ARG	● GLU	● LYS	● THR
● ASN	● GLY	● MET	● TRP
● ASP	● HIS	● PHE	● TYR
● CYS	● ILE	● PRO	● VAL

Properties Based Groups :

● AHR	● PCR	● ARM	● NPR
● BSR	● NCR	● ALR	● PLR
● RTR	● UCR	● UFR	

Topographic Groups:

● SHT	● HEX	● TRN	● RCL
● INT	● SUP	● PRT	

Aggregation Operators Panel

The panel of aggregation operators is divided into four categories: distances, central tendency, dispersion and information theoretic metrics.

In the central tendencies subpanel, specifically for harmonic and geometric means, there are three implemented variants to evaluate these metrics in order to avoid possible in definitions associated with ‘0’ values:

- IGNORE THE VALUES ‘0’

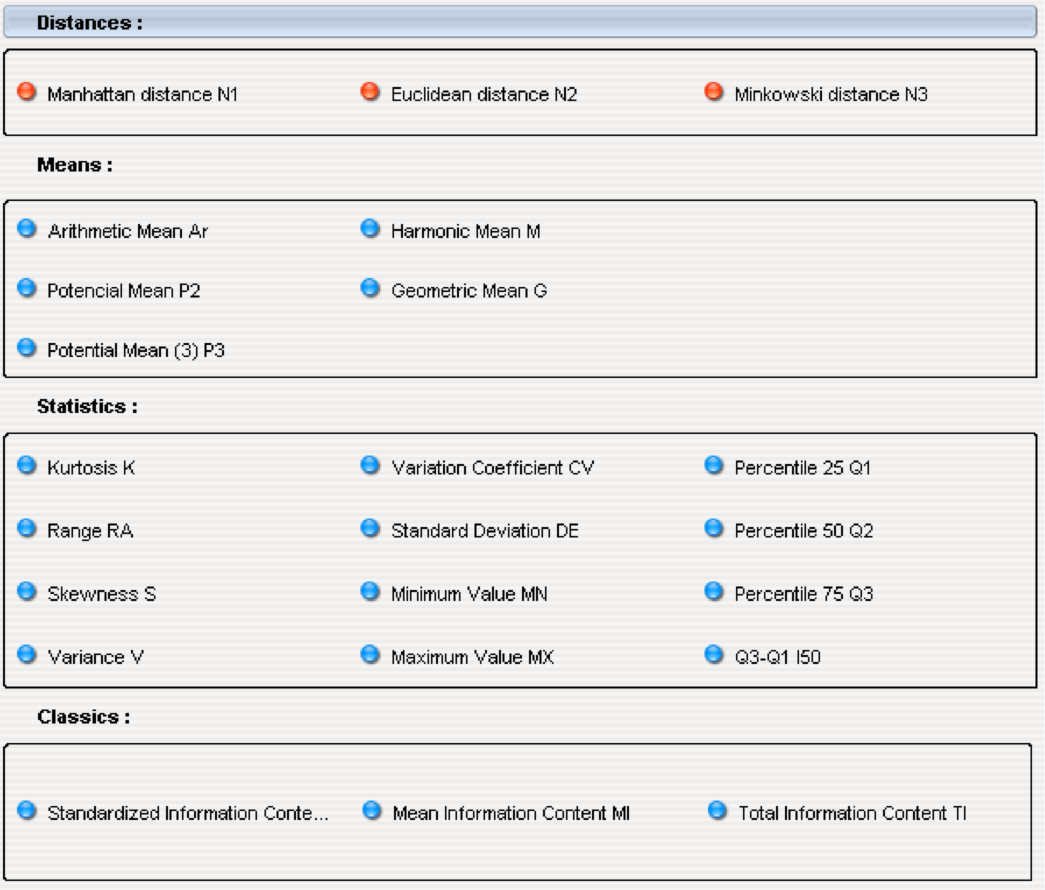
  With this option all zero values are excluded only from the operations, but not in the analysis (i.e. the zero elements are counted to obtain the value N, that refers to the size of the sample).

- PRINT -9999

  This option prints the value -9999 for missing values. In the case of the geometric mean, this occurs when the group size is zero, however, in the case of the harmonic mean, it occurrs when any of the elements are zero.

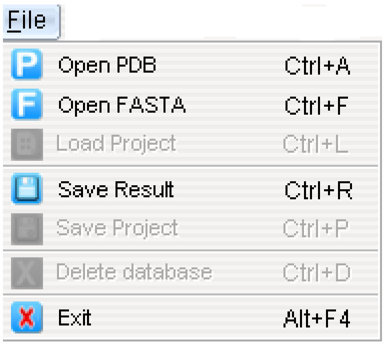
- DELETE THE VALUES ‘0’

  With this option all values zero are excluded and are not taken into account when dividing by N nor when evaluating the N*th*-root.

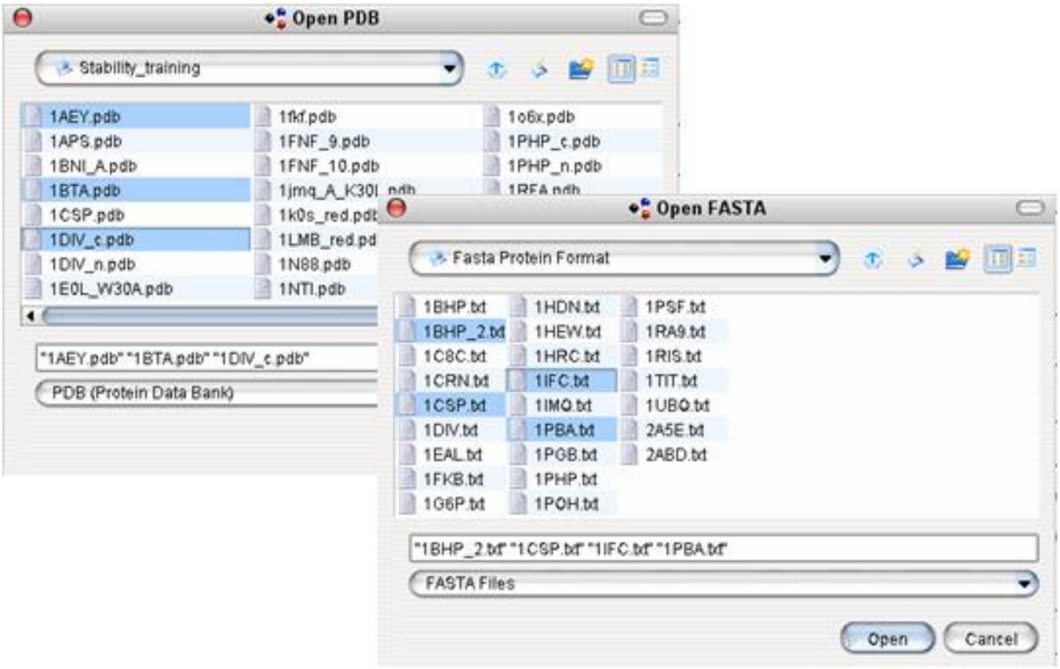

Distances :
Manhattan distance N1
Euclidean distance N2
Minkowski distance N3
Means :
Arithmetic Mean Ar
Harmonic Mean M
Potencial Mean P2
Geometric Mean G
Potential Mean (3) P3
Statistics :
Kurtosis K
Variation Coefficient CV
Percentile 25 Q1
Range RA
Standard Deviation DE
Percentile 50 Q2
Skewness S
Minimum Value MN
Percentile 75 Q3
Variance V
Maximum Value MX
Q3-Q1 I50
Classics :
Standardized Information Conte...
Mean Information Content MI
Total Information Content TI

DESCRIPTION OF MENUS

File: This menu allows uploading and/or exporting the different files that are used by the program, e.g. projects and input or output files.


File
Open PDB Ctrl+A
Open FASTA Ctrl+F
Load Project Ctrl+L
Save Result Ctrl+R
Save Project Ctrl+P
Delete database Ctrl+D
Exit Alt+F4

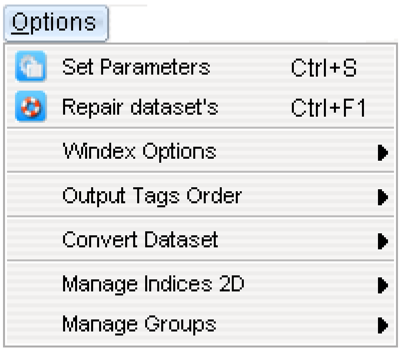
Loading either FASTA or PDB file can be performed by clicking on a buttons F or P respectively, which are located in the toolbar or the 'File' menu. These buttons launch an explorer to select the files to upload.


Open PDB
Stability_training
1AEY.pdb
1APS.pdb
1BNI_A.pdb
1BTA.pdb
1CSP.pdb
1DIV_c.pdb
1DIV_n.pdb
1E0L_W30A.pdb
1fkf.pdb
1FNF_9.pdb
1FNF_10.pdb
1jmq_A_K30I.pdb
1k0s_red.pdb
1LMB_red.pd
1N88.pdb
1NTI.pdb
1o6x.pdb
1PHP_c.pdb
1PHP_n.pdb
1RFA.pdb
PDB (Protein Data Bank)
Open FASTA
Fasta Protein Format
1BHP.txt
1BHP_2.txt
1C8C.txt
1CRN.txt
1CSP.txt
1DIV.txt
1EAL.txt
1FKB.txt
1G6P.txt
1HDN.txt
1HEW.txt
1HRC.txt
1IFC.txt
1IMQ.txt
1PBA.txt
1PGB.txt
1PHP.txt
1POH.txt
1PSF.txt
1RA9.txt
1RIS.txt
1TIT.txt
1UBQ.txt
2A5E.txt
2ABD.txt
FASTA Files
Open
Cancel

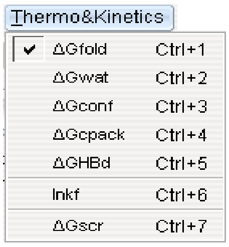
"1AEY.pdb" "1BTA.pdb" "1DIV_c.pdb"

"1BHP_2.txt" "1CSP.txt" "1IFC.txt" "1PBA.txt"

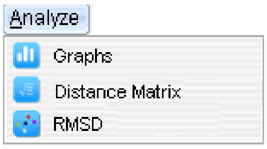
Options: This menu permits configuring the parameters used to evaluate the indices, fixing the amount of significant digits in the output files, and particularly the selection of the modification operator (*Windex: weighted index*) to be applied to the computed residue indices. After the application of this operator, the indices values are updated and the subsequent procedures (grouping and aggregation) make use of these new indices values instead of the original unmodified indicies. Note that the selected operator will be applied to all selected indices in the same manner. To evaluate different operators, a separate execution needs to be configured (rerun the GUI or save & execute multiple projects using the different operators in batch mode . In addition, the Option menu permits defining new indices and grouping criteria.


Options
Set Parameters Ctrl+S
Repair dataset's Ctrl+F1
Windex Options
Output Tags Order
Convert Dataset
Manage Indices 2D
Manage Groups

Functions: In addition to protein descriptors, ProtDCal implements the calculation of empirical thermodynamic and kinetic functions: folding free energy (ΔG_{fold}), configurational free energy (ΔG_{conf}), hydrophobic effect (ΔG_{wat}), H-bond deficit free energy (ΔG_{HBd}), close-packing interactions (ΔG_{cpack}), scoring function for structural decoys (ΔG_{scr}), as well as the logarithm of the folding rate constant $\ln k_f$.[1-3]

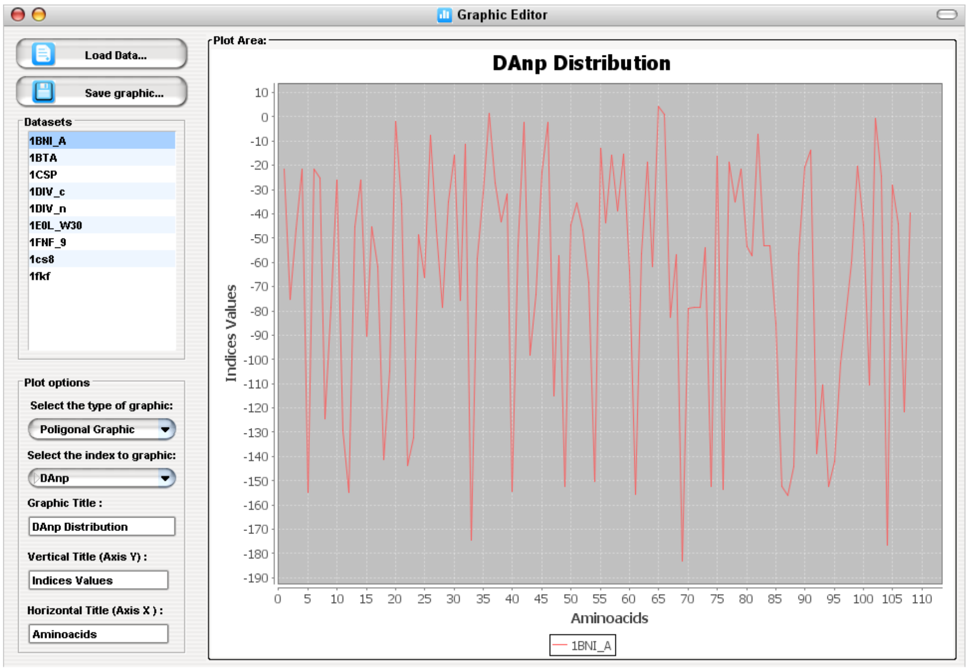

Thermo&Kinetics
✓ ΔGfold Ctrl+1
ΔGwat Ctrl+2
ΔGconf Ctrl+3
ΔGcpack Ctrl+4
ΔGHBd Ctrl+5
lnkf Ctrl+6
ΔGscr Ctrl+7

Analyze: This menus gives access to three options to compare a set of protein structures or sequences:


Analyze
Graphs
Distance Matrix
RMSD

First, one can plot profiles of indices and bar graphs according the distribution of a given index along a sequence.

Profile Graph:


Graphic Editor
Load Data...
Save graphic...
Datasets
1BNI_A
1BTA
1CSP
1DIV_c
1DIV_n
1E0L_W30
1FNF_9
1cs8
1fkf
Plot options
Plot Area:
DAnp Distribution
Indices Values
10
0
-10
-20
-30
-40
-50
-60
-70
-80
-90
-100
-110
-120
-130
-140
-150
-160
-170
-180
-190
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
95
100
105
110
Aminoacids
1BNI_A

Select the type of graphic: Poligonal Graphic

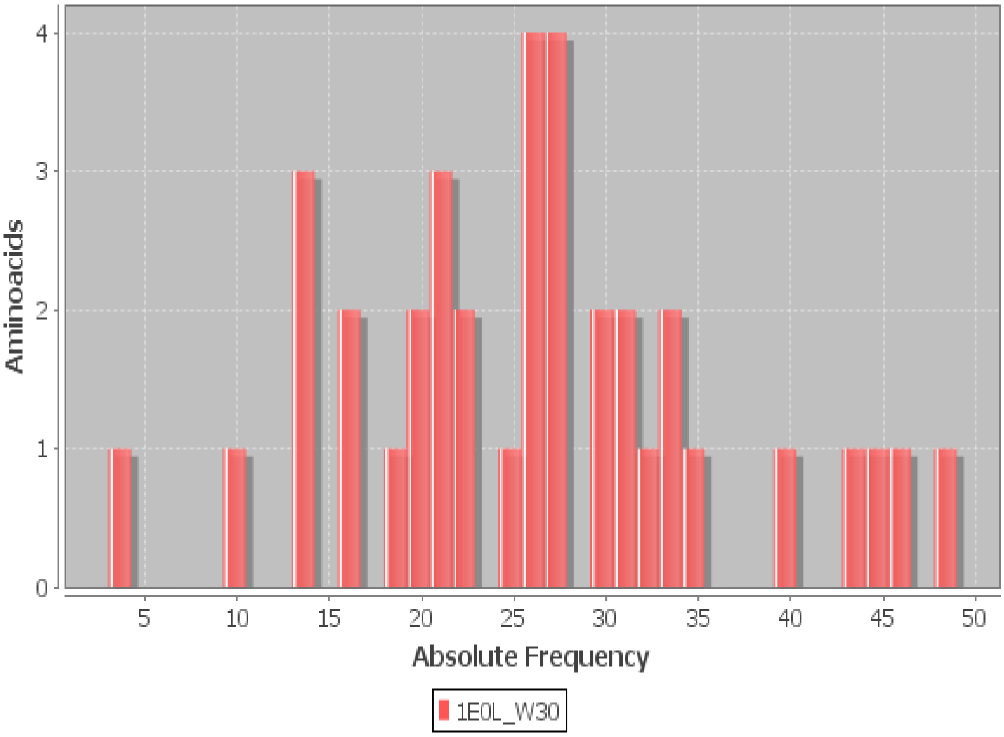
Select the index to graphic: DAnp

Graphic Title : DAnp Distribution

Vertical Title (Axis Y) : Indices Values

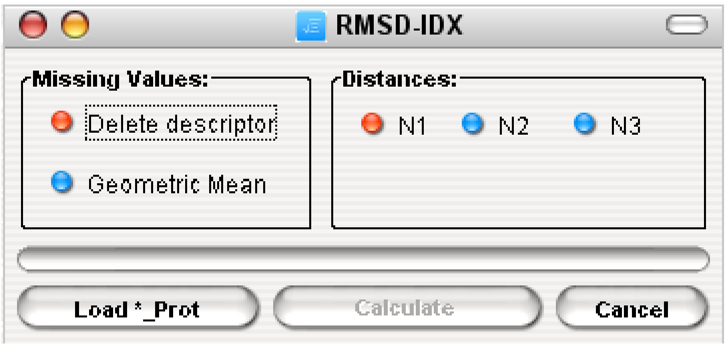
Horizontal Title (Axis X) : Aminoacids

Bar graph (absolute frequency of the index values in different ranges):



Distance Matrix: This option permits one to compute descriptor-based distance matrices among all proteins in an output file. This option compares different proteins by using previously computed descriptors. This process calculates a distance value (using either Manhattan, Euclidean or Minkowski (p=3) distances) between all proteins using standardized values of the available descriptors.

This option is configured using the following interface:



Missing Values:
● Delete descriptor
○ Geometric Mean

Distances:
● N1 ○ N2 ○ N3

The distance matrix is computed from a file <name>_Prot which must contain only the features which are going to be used to evaluate the distance metrics.

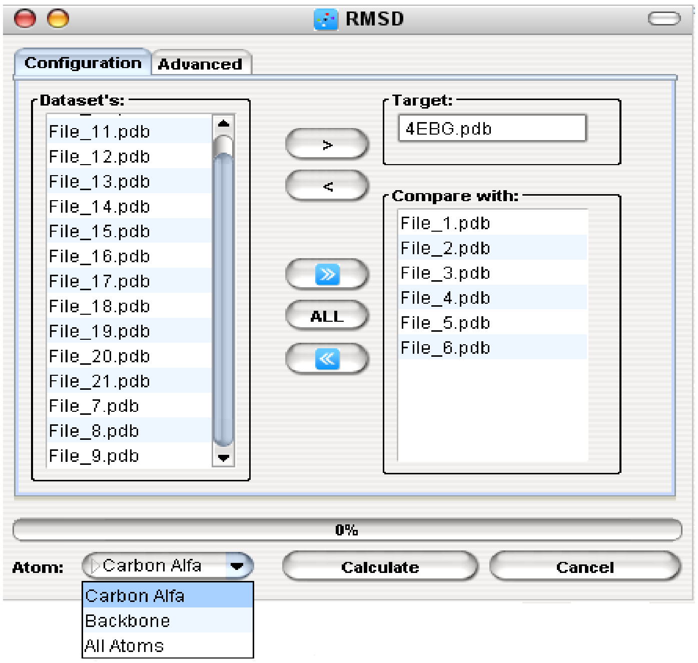
The panel ‘Missing Values’ provides two options to deal with such data that ProtDCal labels as -9999:

- **Delete the descriptor:**

  Removes the descriptor that contains at least one missing value
- **Geometric Mean:**

  Replaces missing values (-9999) with the geometric mean of the other values of the descriptor.

The ‘Analyze’ menu also implements a Root Mean Squared Deviation RMSD calculator which uses the Kabasch algorithm, as implemented in the CDK (Chemistry Development Kit) library, to obtain the optimum structural alignment between protein conformations and the selected target. The RMSD can be evaluated among Cα, backbone or all the atoms of the proteins. This option is configured at:


RMSD
Configuration
Advanced
Dataset's:
File_11.pdb
File_12.pdb
File_13.pdb
File_14.pdb
File_15.pdb
File_16.pdb
File_17.pdb
File_18.pdb
File_19.pdb
File_20.pdb
File_21.pdb
File_7.pdb
File_8.pdb
File_9.pdb
>
<
ALL
Compare with:
File_1.pdb
File_2.pdb
File_3.pdb
File_4.pdb
File_5.pdb
File_6.pdb
0%
Calculate
Cancel
Carbon Alfa
Backbone
All Atoms

Target: 4EBG.pdb

Atom: Carbon Alfa

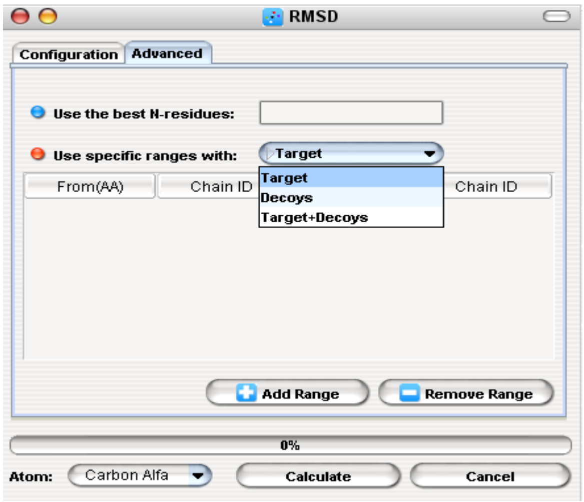
In the ‘Advanced’ panel, other options are available such as:

- **"Use the best N-residues":**

  This option performs two iterations, one to superimpose the structures considering all the residues, and the second only considers the N-best aligned pairs of residues to re-build the superposition and compute the RMSD.

- **"Use specific ranges":**

  This option superposes and computes the RMSD among structures using specific ranges of residues from the target, the decoys, or all the structures.

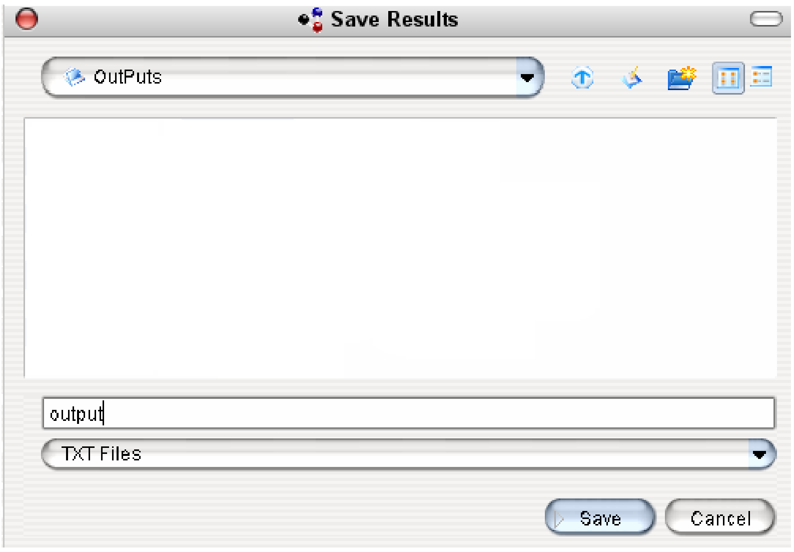

RMSD
Configuration
Advanced
Use the best N-residues:
From(AA)
Chain ID
Target
Decoys
Target+Decoys
Chain ID
Add Range
Remove Range
0%
Calculate
Cancel

Use specific ranges with: Target

Atom: Carbon Alfa

OUTPUT FILES

The button 'Set output for Results' (💾) in the toolbar or in the 'File' menu allows one to set the file path to save the results of a calculation. This button launches an explorer to set the path and name of the output files.

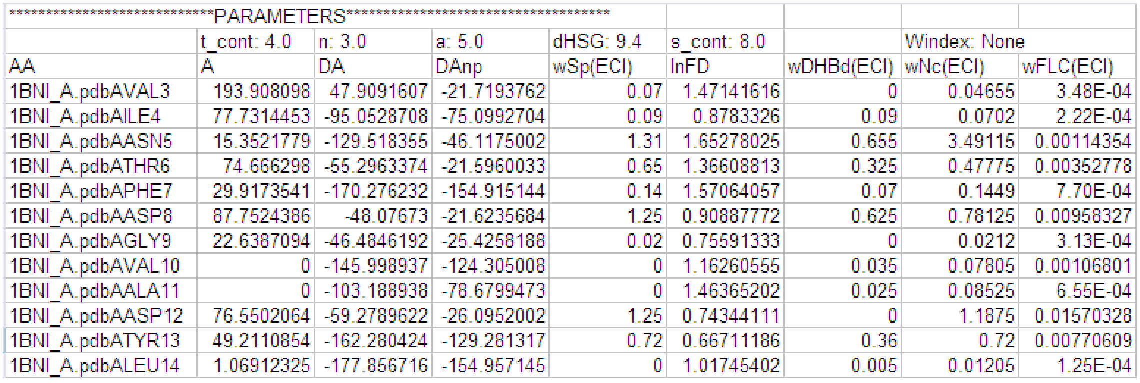


output

TXT Files

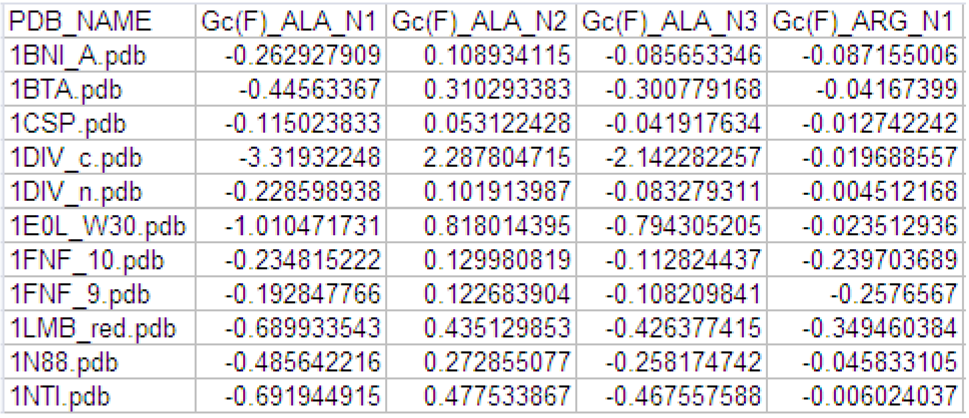
Two files result from ProtDCal calculations: <name>_AA.txt and <name>_Prot.txt. Given the input proteins, these files include the values of the descriptors for each residue, and for each selected group, respectively.

The structure of the file <name>_AA.txt contains, in the second line, the parameters used for calculations, while the third line has the labels of the requested indices. The first column (labeled 'AA') represents the identifier of each residue in the proteins. This column is a combination of protein name, chain identifier, residue name, and residue number from the PDB file. The figure below depicts an example of this type of file.



****************************PARAMETERS*************************************								
	t_cont: 4.0	n: 3.0	a: 5.0	dHSG: 9.4	s_cont: 8.0		Windex: None	
AA	A	DA	DAnp	wSp(ECI)	lnFD	wDHBd(ECI)	wNc(ECI)	wFLC(ECI)
1BNI_A.pdbAVAL3	193.908098	47.9091607	-21.7193762	0.07	1.47141616	0	0.04655	3.48E-04
1BNI_A.pdbAILE4	77.7314453	-95.0528708	-75.0992704	0.09	0.8783326	0.09	0.0702	2.22E-04
1BNI_A.pdbAASN5	15.3521779	-129.518355	-46.1175002	1.31	1.65278025	0.655	3.49115	0.00114354
1BNI_A.pdbATHR6	74.666298	-55.2963374	-21.5960033	0.65	1.36608813	0.325	0.47775	0.00352778
1BNI_A.pdbAPHE7	29.9173541	-170.276232	-154.915144	0.14	1.57064057	0.07	0.1449	7.70E-04
1BNI_A.pdbAASP8	87.7524386	-48.07673	-21.6235684	1.25	0.90887772	0.625	0.78125	0.00958327
1BNI_A.pdbAGLY9	22.6387094	-46.4846192	-25.4258188	0.02	0.75591333	0	0.0212	3.13E-04
1BNI_A.pdbAVAL10	0	-145.998937	-124.305008	0	1.16260555	0.035	0.07805	0.00106801
1BNI_A.pdbAALA11	0	-103.188938	-78.6799473	0	1.46365202	0.025	0.08525	6.55E-04
1BNI_A.pdbAASP12	76.5502064	-59.2789622	-26.0952002	1.25	0.74344111	0	1.1875	0.01570328
1BNI_A.pdbATYR13	49.2110854	-162.280424	-129.281317	0.72	0.66711186	0.36	0.72	0.00770609
1BNI_A.pdbALEU14	1.06912325	-177.856716	-154.957145	0	1.01745402	0.005	0.01205	1.25E-04

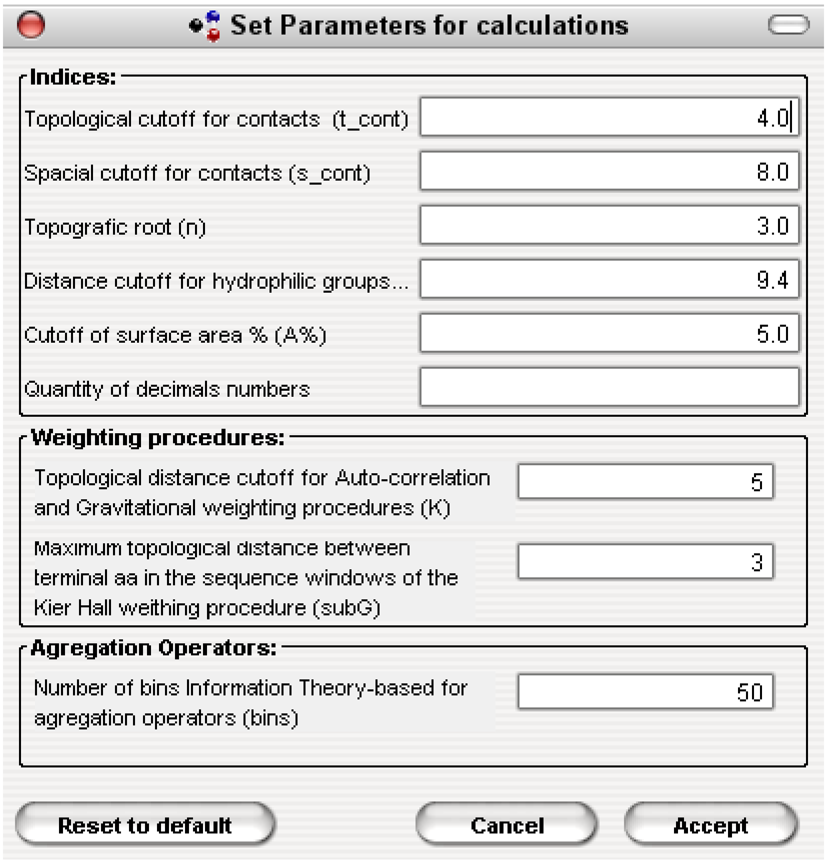
Similarly, the output file <name>_Prot.txt contains, in the first line, the labels of all computed descriptors, which are a combination of the indices, groups, and aggregation operators selected in the main interface. The figure below depicts an example of this type of file.



PDB_NAME	Gc(F)_ALA_N1	Gc(F)_ALA_N2	Gc(F)_ALA_N3	Gc(F)_ARG_N1
1BNI_A.pdb	-0.262927909	0.108934115	-0.085653346	-0.087155006
1BTA.pdb	-0.44563367	0.310293383	-0.300779168	-0.04167399
1CSP.pdb	-0.115023833	0.053122428	-0.041917634	-0.012742242
1DIV_c.pdb	-3.31932248	2.287804715	-2.142282257	-0.019688557
1DIV_n.pdb	-0.228598938	0.101913987	-0.083279311	-0.004512168
1E0L_W30.pdb	-1.010471731	0.818014395	-0.794305205	-0.023512936
1FNF_10.pdb	-0.234815222	0.129980819	-0.112824437	-0.239703689
1FNF_9.pdb	-0.192847766	0.122683904	-0.108209841	-0.2576567
1LMB_red.pdb	-0.689933543	0.435129853	-0.426377415	-0.349460384
1N88.pdb	-0.485642216	0.272855077	-0.258174742	-0.045833105
1NTI.pdb	-0.691944915	0.477533867	-0.467557588	-0.006024037

PARAMETERS CONFIGURATION

The interface to set the parameters to be used in a calculation can be launched using the toolbar button "Set Parameters" ()or via the 'Options' menu.



Indices:

Topological cutoff for contacts (t_cont) 4.0

Spacial cutoff for contacts (s_cont) 8.0

Topografic root (n) 3.0

Distance cutoff for hydrophilic groups... 9.4

Cutoff of surface area % (A%) 5.0

Quantity of decimals numbers

Weighting procedures:

Topological distance cutoff for Auto-correlation and Gravitational weighting procedures (K) 5

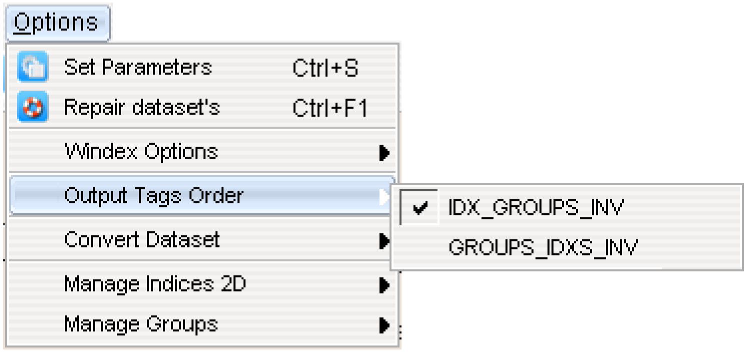
Maximum topological distance between terminal aa in the sequence windows of the Kier Hall weithing procedure (subG) 3

Agregation Operators:

Number of bins Information Theory-based for agregation operators (bins) 50

Organizing the output file

The feature or raw matrix obtained after calculation in the output file <name>_Prot.txt is a block matrix that, by default, organizes the descriptor in the hierarchic order "*index > group > aggregation operator*" (invariant). To change the order in this output file, the 'Output Tags Order' button located in the 'Option' menu, provides two options: <index>_<group>_<invariant> (default) and <group>_<index>_<invariant> (alternative).


Options
Set Parameters Ctrl+S
Repair dataset's Ctrl+F1
Windex Options
Output Tags Order
Convert Dataset
Manage Indices 2D
Manage Groups
✓ IDX_GROUPS_INV
GROUPS_IDXS_INV

PROJECTS

Projects are text files in which all the options required to execute a calculation are included. To configure a project , one must set all the options of a calculation (i.e. loading data set, indices, modification operators, groups, aggregation operators, and parameters) then the project can be exported by using the button 'Save Project' (💾) located in the toolbar. The path to the dataset will be kept as part of the project.

Project Structure

A ProtDCal project consists of several tags that identify each of the configuration parameters for a given calculation. The structure of a project is divided into seven sections:

A) Path of the directory containing the input file(s). This section comprises two lines as is illustrated below:

directory:

F:\WORK\RESEARCH\ProtDCal\Datasets\Fasta_Protein_Format\prediction

B) This section summarizes the tag of each selected indices separated by commas:

indices:

Gw(U),Gs(U),W(U),Mw,HP,ECI,Vm,Z1,Z2,Z3,ISA,Pa,Pb,Pt,

When using weighted topographic indices (wIdx), such as the weighed Contact Order (wCO), additional lines are needed to specify the selected weights (separated by comma) for each weighted index:

indices:

A,DA,DAnp,wSp,lnFD,wR2,wDHBd,wNc,wFLC,wNLC,wCO,wLCO,wRWCO

wCO:

ECI,HP,IP,ISA,Mw,None,Num_Atoms,

wSp:

ECI,HP,IP,ISA,Mw,None,Num_Atoms,

wR2:

ECI,HP,IP,ISA,Mw,None,

wDHBd:

IP,ISA,Mw,None,Num_Atoms,

wRWCO:

ECI,HP,IP,Num_Atoms,

wNc:

HP,IP,ISA,Mw,None,Num_Atoms,

wNLC:

ECI,HP,IP,ISA,Mw,

wLCO:

ECI,HP,IP,ISA,Mw,None,Num_Atoms,

wFLC:

ECI,HP,IP,ISA,Mw,None,Num_Atoms,

C) This third section uses two lines to specify the functions' tags separated by commas:

functions:

DGfold,DGconf,DGHBd,

Each function corresponds to one of the models enclosed in the menu 'Thermo&kinetics', which correspond to the empirical thermodynamic model defined in our laboratory to describe protein folding stability and kinetics.

D) The fourth section comprises two lines specifying the groups of residues selected for calculation. Each group's tag is listed separated by comma:

groups:

ALA,GLY,HIS, PHE,ARM,PLR,NCR,SHT,HEX,TRN, INT,SUP,PRT,

Additionally, if a user creates and selects a new group of residues, the defined label is added to the list of other groups:

groups:

ALA,GLY,HIS, PHE,ARM,PLR,NCR,SHT,HEX,TRN, INT,SUP,PRT,USER-1,USER-2

E) This section summarizes the invariant aggregation operators selected to be applied on each group of residues. Each operator's tag is listed separated by comma:

invariants:

N1,N3,Ar,P2,M,V,CV,Q3,K,Q1,DE,MI,

F) This section specifies the parameter values needed to evaluate the indices and invariant aggregation operators. The parameter values are listed as follow:

parameters(t_cont,s_cont,A%, HydGroup,n,bins,K,SubG):

4.0,8.0,5.0,9.4,3.0,50,5,3

These parameters adopt default values. We do not recommend changing the numbers unless the user has an advanced knowledge of its influence on the requested features. Please contact the authors for further direction regarding this subject. The following table provides a brief description of the parameters.

t_cont	Topological cutoff for inter-residue contacts. Minimum value of sequence separation between pairs of residues in contact.
s_cont	Spatial cutoff for inter-residue contacts. Maximum value of distance between the Cα of pairs of residues in contact.
A%	Cutoff of superficiality. Minimal percent of the total surface area of a given residue for being labeled as superficial.
HydGroup	Distance cutoff to identify hydrophilic groups of residues. This parameter is used by the thermodynamic indices: Gw(F), DGw, W(F). Its value must vary between: [7.6 - 10.6].
n	This parameter is used in the index: 'logarithm of the Folding Degree' (lnFD), as the order of the power to which the spatial distance, between the Cα of a pair of residues, is raised to compute their 'compaction' (quotient between the sequence separation and a power of the spatial distance)
bins	Number of bins to compute Shannon-entropy-based information theoretic aggregation operators. The user should fix this value such that that the number of residues per selected group is larger than the number of bins.
K	Parameter used by the Autocorrelation and Gravitational modification operators. This value corresponds to the sequence offset to identify the residues used to modify the initial value of the index. For example, when computing the autocorrelation modification for residue position *i*, each index will be affected by the residue at position *i* ± 5.
SubG	Parameter used by the modification operator: Kier-Hall. This value corresponds to the maximum length of the sub-graphs (of path type) used to modify the value of a given residue. For example, for a value of 3, all the sub-graphs of no more than 3 residues and containing the residue *i* are used to modify its value.

G) This last section summarizes the value of other general options of project:

options(decimals,armonicMeanType,geometricMeanType,windexID,datasetType,outputOrder):

-1,0,0,-1,true,true

Where:

decimals	Amount of decimals numbers to use in the output file (-1: no approximation is done).
harmonicMeanType	Specify the options to deal with the zeros when computing the Harmonic Mean.
geometricMeanType	Specify the options to deal with the zeros when computing the Geometric Mean.
windexID	Specify the modification operator to be use in the calculation. Where: 0 = Autocorrelation, 1 = Gravitational, 2 = Kier-Hall, 3 = Ivanciuc-Balaban, 4 = Electrotopological State, -1 = none
datasetType	Type of input files. True: PDB files. False: FASTA files
outputOrder	Order of the block matrix of features in the output file: True: IDX_GROUP_INVARIANT. False: GROUP_IDX_ INVARIANT

NOTE: A project must not contain any empty lines or incorrect tags. It is strongly recommended to use the graphical user interface to configure the project initially. What follows is a list of valid tags for each section:

==ProtDCal Indices tags==

===>Thermodynamic Indices of Folded Protein States

Gc(F),Gw(F),Gs(F),W(F),DGs,HBd,DGel,DGw,DGLJ,DGtor

===>Thermodynamic Indices of the Extended Protein State

Gw(U) Gs(U) W(U)

===>Topographic Indices

A,DA,DAnp,wSp,lnfd,wR2,wDHBd,wNc,wFLC,wNLC,wCO,wLCO,wRWCO,wCTP,wCLQ, wPsiH,wPsiS,wPsiI,wPhiH,wPhiS,wPhiI,Phi,Psi

===>Property Based Indices

Mw,HP,IP,ECI,Vm,Anp,Z1,Z2,Z3,ISA,At,Ap,Pa,Pb,Pt

==ProtDCal Functions tags==

DGfold,DGwat,DGconf,DGpack,ln(kf),DGscr,DGHBd

==ProtDCal Groups tags==

===>Residue Basic Group

ALA,ARG,ASN,ASP,CYS,GLU,GLN,GLY,HIS,ILE,LEU,LYS,MET,PHE,PRO,SER,THR,TRP,TYR,VAL

===>Properties Based Group

RTR,BSR,AHR,ALR,NPR,ARM,PLR,PCR,NCR,UCR,UFR

===>Topographic Group

SHT,HEX,TRN,RCL,INT,SUP,PRT

==ProtDCal Procedural Aggregation_operators ID==

===>Distances

N1,N2,N3

===>Means

Ar,P2,P3,M,G,V

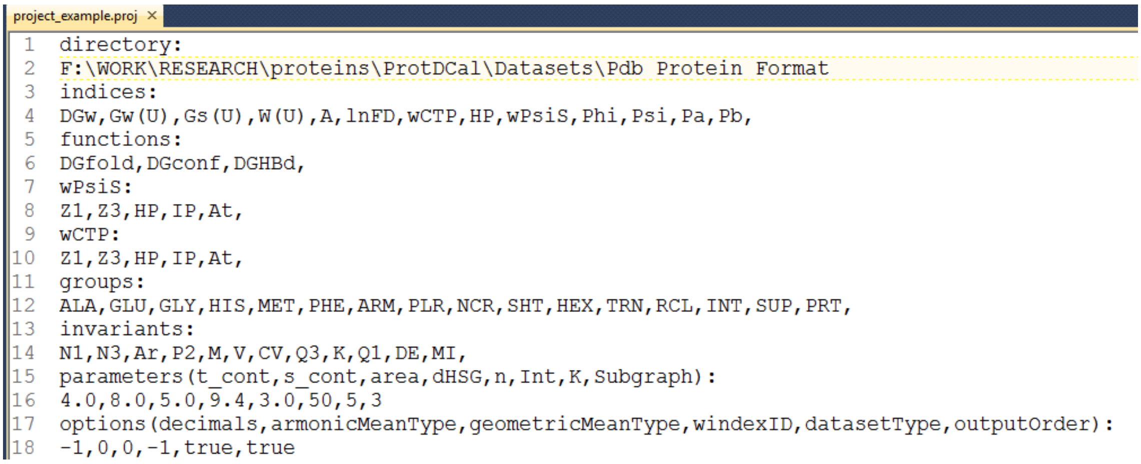
===>Statistics

CV,Q3,S,RA,MN,K,Q1,MX,DE,Q2,I50

===>Information Theoretic Operators

SI,MI,TI

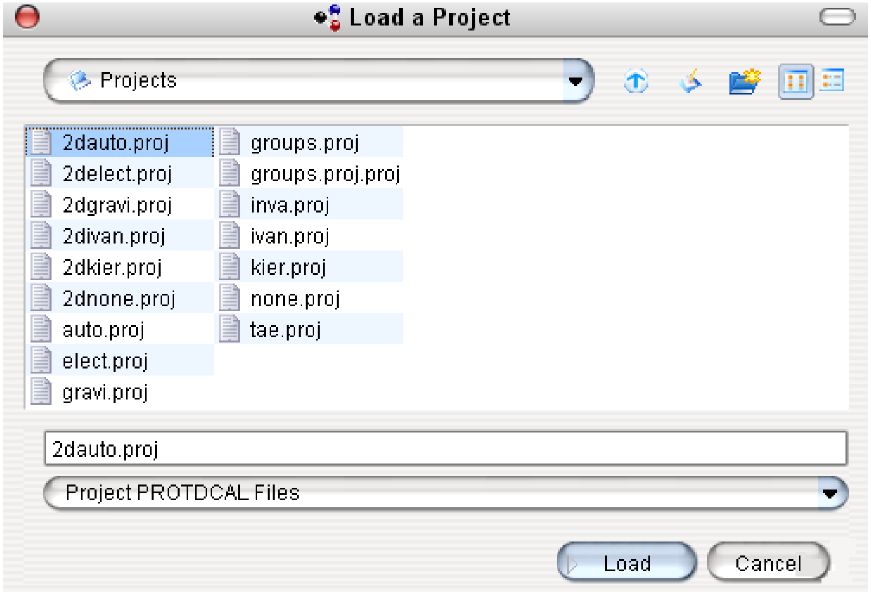
Below is a screenshot showing the structure of an actual project:



```
directory:
F:\WORK\RESEARCH\proteins\ProtDCal\Datasets\Pdb Protein Format
indices:
DGw,Gw(U),Gs(U),W(U),A,lnFD,wCTP,HP,wPsiS,Phi,Psi,Pa,Pb,
functions:
DGfold,DGconf,DGHBd,
wPsiS:
Z1,Z3,HP,IP,At,
wCTP:
Z1,Z3,HP,IP,At,
groups:
ALA,GLU,GLY,HIS,MET,PHE,ARM,PLR,NCR,SHT,HEX,TRN,RCL,INT,SUP,PRT,
invariants:
N1,N3,Ar,P2,M,V,CV,Q3,K,Q1,DE,MI,
parameters(t_cont,s_cont,area,dHSG,n,Int,K,Subgraph):
4.0,8.0,5.0,9.4,3.0,50,5,3
options(decimals,armonicMeanType,geometricMeanType,windexID,datasetType,outputOrder):
-1,0,0,-1,true,true
```

Loading a project

To load a project use the button ‘Load Project’ () located in the toolbar. This button will launch an explorer to select the desired project.



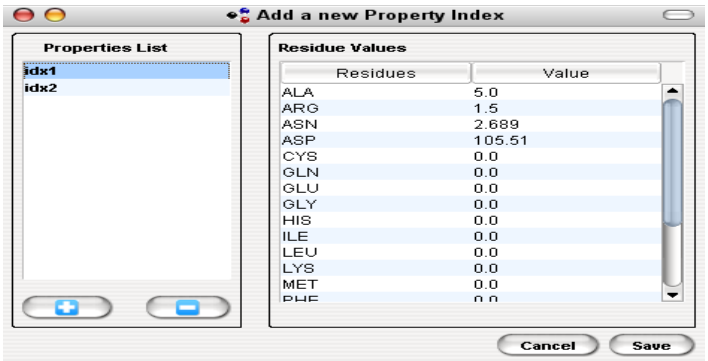
2dauto.proj
2delect.proj
2dgravi.proj
2divan.proj
2dkier.proj
2dnone.proj
auto.proj
elect.proj
gravi.proj
groups.proj
groups.proj.proj
inva.proj
ivan.proj
kier.proj
none.proj
tae.proj

2dauto.proj

Project PROTDCAL Files

USER-SPECIFIED INDICES

The button ‘Define new Property’ located in ‘Options’ menu permits the definition of specific property-based indices. This option will launch the following window:

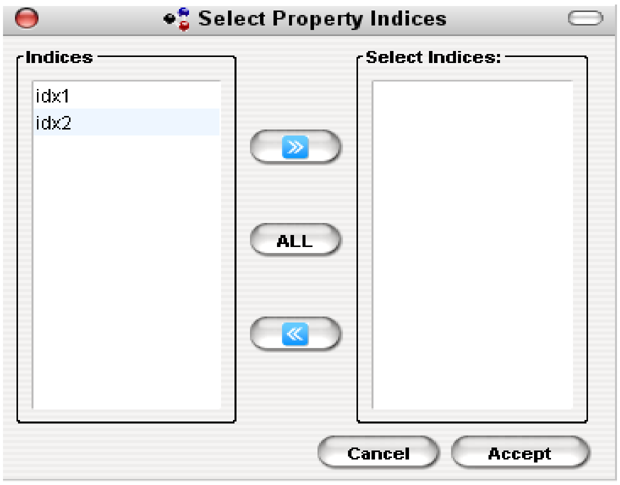


idx1
idx2

Residues	Value
ALA	5.0
ARG	1.5
ASN	2.689
ASP	105.51
CYS	0.0
GLN	0.0
GLU	0.0
GLY	0.0
HIS	0.0
ILE	0.0
LEU	0.0
LYS	0.0
MET	0.0
PHE	0.0

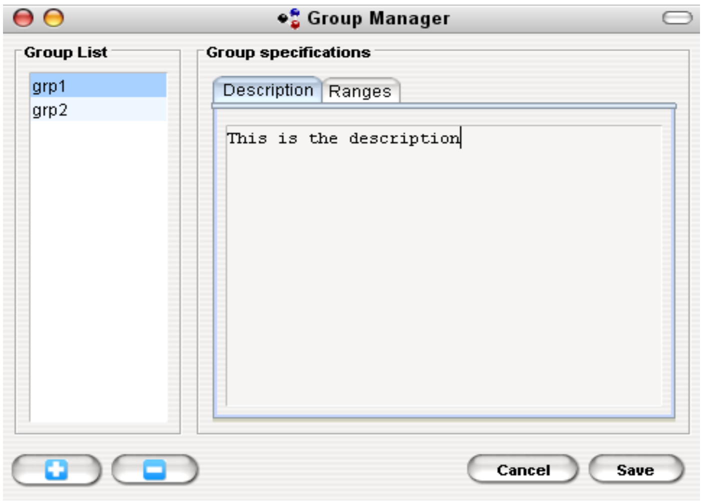
The panel ‘Property List’ provides the list of available indices. The ‘Residue Values’ panel permits editing the assigned values to each residue.

When defining new indices, the option “Select new Property”, in the ‘Option’ menu, permits selecting these indices for calculation.


Select Property Indices
Indices
idx1
idx2
Select Indices:
ALL
Cancel
Accept

USER-SPECIFIED GROUPS

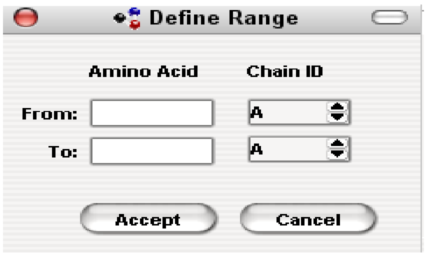
To create new groups select the *"Define new group"* ( ) located in the menu "Options/Managing Groups" which will launch the following window:


Group Manager
Group List
grp1
grp2
Group specifications
Description
Ranges
Cancel
Save

This is the description

This option allows the definition of new groups of residues. These groups are created by extracting specific ranges of residues that can be fixed using panel ‘Ranges’.

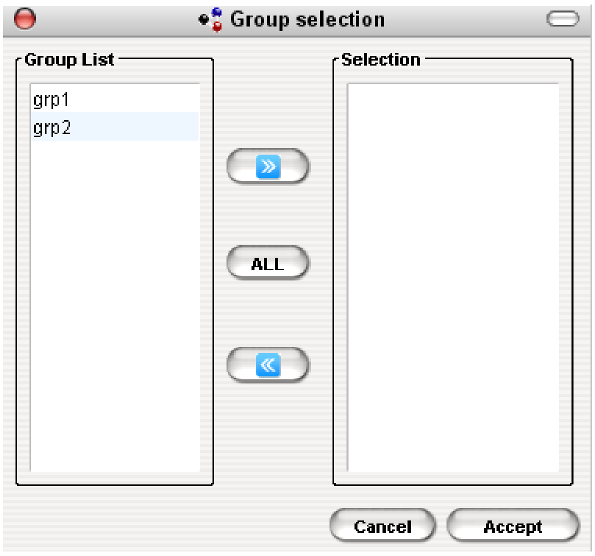
The ranges can be configured by settling the position of the initial and last residues as well as the identifier of the chain of each residue.


Define Range
Amino Acid
Chain ID
From:
To:
Accept
Cancel

From: A

To: A

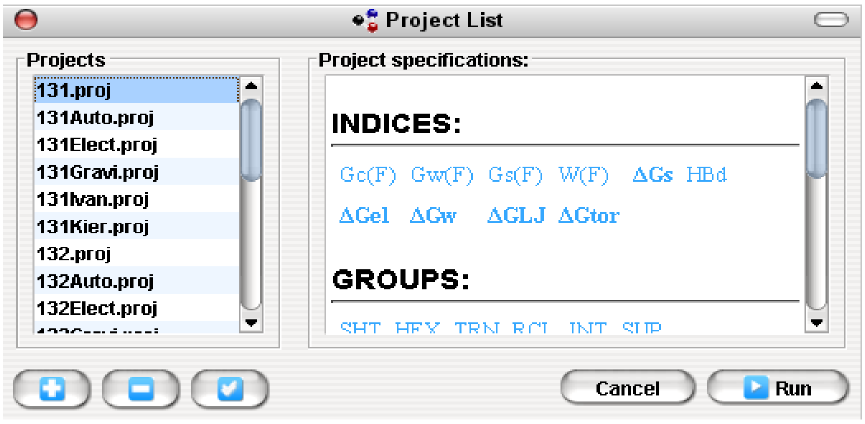
The option *'Select groups'* ( ) permits selecting these new groups, for subsequent calculations, through the following interface:


Group selection
Group List
grp1
grp2
ALL
Selection
Cancel
Accept

EXECUTING CALCULATIONS

ProtDCal permits carrying out a single calculation or running multiple projects in batch mode. The first option can be accessed directly by configuring a set of indices, groups, and aggregation operators. Additionally, it can be executed by uploading a single predefined project.

To execute several projects in batch mode, the button 'Run Projects' ( ) located in the toolbar, permits one to select a set of predefined projects through the following interface:


Project List
Projects
131.proj
131Auto.proj
131Elect.proj
131Gravi.proj
131Ivan.proj
131Kier.proj
132.proj
132Auto.proj
132Elect.proj
Project specifications:
INDICES:
Gc(F) Gw(F) Gs(F) W(F) ΔGs HBd
ΔGel ΔGw ΔGLJ ΔGtor
GROUPS:
Cancel
Run

Alternatively, if a number of Projects are configured the user can execute ProtDCal in console mode as:

```
java –Xmx1000m –jar ProtDCal.jar –p <Path to projects’ directory> -o <path to outputs’ directory>
```

If no option is specified this line will simply execute the graphical user interface.

ProtDCal’s command-line options:

-p: Defines the path to the directory enclosing the projects to execute. All projects in this directory will be computed.

-o: Defines the location in which to create the output files. Each file will take the same name as the corresponding project.

-v: Defines whether to include the name of the project within the label of final descriptors. 0: no (default), 1: yes. This option is valuable when the same descriptors are computed, but different parameters are evaluated each time (likely of interest only to advanced users).

BASIC MODELING WORKFLOW USING PROTDCAL AND WEKA

ProtDCal is intended to generate a wide variety of features describing a protein sequence and/or structure. By applying feature selection, an appropriate feature subset may be identified and used to create effective classifiers. Below, we detail the creation of a predictor of N-linked glycosylation based on protein sequence.

Prediction of N-linked glycosylation from protein sequence

Gathering the data set of instances:

3508 sequence-unique windows of 15 aa, each centered on an Asn residue, were extracted from the 242 protein sequence targets of O-GLYCBASE. This data set can be found, in FASTA format, within the ‘Datasets’ directory in the ProtDCal distribution with the name ‘glyco-3508.fasta’.

Generation of an initial set of features:

It is known from the literature related to N-glycosylation that this process is highly sensitive to the presence of specific amino acids at specific positions near the target Asn residue. The most commonly used sequence motif associated with N-linked glycosylation is defined by the “sequon”: Asn-Xxx-Thr/Ser, which indicates the strong influence of a Thr or Ser residue at position Asn + 2. Therefore, it was decided to generate position-specific features for all the analysed sequence windows.

Please see the section ‘User-specified groups’ of this manual in order to learn how to define such groups. User-specified groups are saved in a text file named ‘groups.gdm’ that appears in the main directory of ProtDcal distribution. Each newly defined group is saved in this file using the following format:

```
RangeGroup <name>
<Comment line>
```

n 0 *n* 0
END Group

These four lines are summarized as follows: i) the name given to the group, ii) an optional description, iii) the starting and final position of an inclusive range of residues gathered in the group (where *n* 0 *n* 0 means: the nth residue of the first chain to the nth residue of the first chain), and iv) a marker ending the section of this group. This file can be edited directly by the user without the need of using the graphical interface. Fifteen new groups were defined, each corresponding to exactly one residue position within the 15 aa windows. These were named '1' through '15'.

A number of residue indices were then selected to be computed for each of the 15 groups. These indices comprised distinct properties and thermodynamic indices, using the Kier-Hall modification operator (with a sub-graph parameter of '1') and the Minkowsky norm 'N1' as the aggregation operator. These options can be specified using the graphical user interface or by manually creating of a project file with the following information (the comment text in *green-italics* is added here to explain each line, but should not appear in the actual project file):

```
//path to input sequence window files
directory:
<Path to input sequence windows files or multi-FASTA file gathering all the sequence windows>
//which indices to compute for each group
indices:
Gw(U),Gs(U),W(U),HP,IP,ECI,Z1,At,Pb,
//which groups to use – defined in 'groups.gdm'
groups:
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,
//specify aggregation operator to use
invariants:
N1,
//default parameter values
parameters(t_cont,s_cont,A%,HydGroup,n,bins,K,SubG):
4.0,8.0,5.0,9.4,3.0,50,5,1
//default options used
options(decimals,harmonicMeanType,geometricMeanType,windexID,datasetType,outputOrder):
-1,0,0,2,false,true
```

Finally, by placing this project file in a directory named 'ExampleGly' within the 'Projects' directory, the features can be computed by executing this command line:

```
Java –jar ProtDCal.jar –p Projects/ExampleGly –o Outputs
```

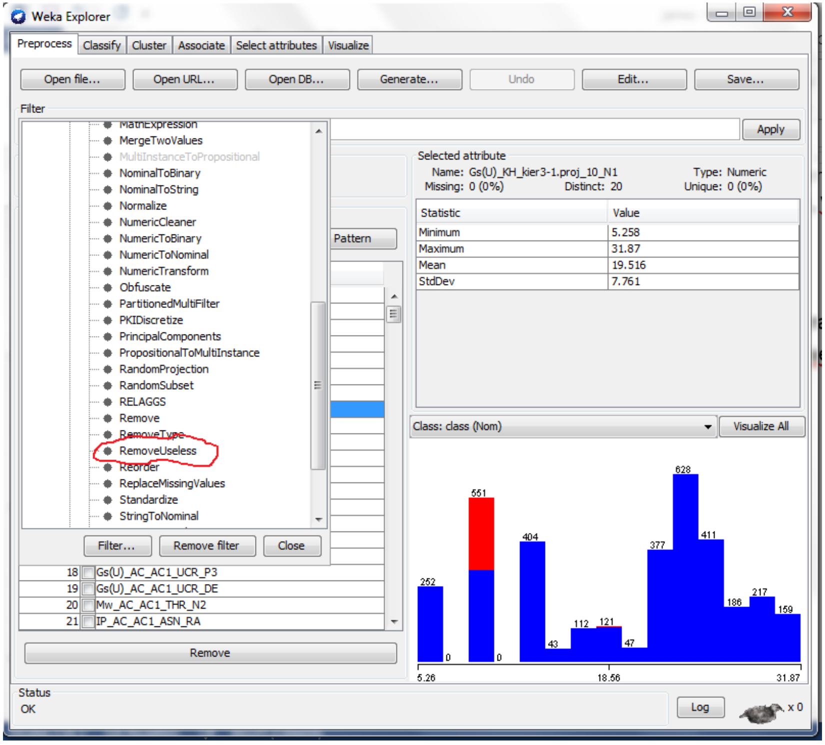
This calculation generates two tab-delimited output files named <project name>_AA.txt and <project name>_Prot.txt, which summarize feature matrices in the format [AA vs. residue indices] and [sequence windows vs. features] respectively. We will use the file called <project name>_Prot.txt, which shall summarize the computed features for each sequence window.

Preparing the data file to be read by Weka

Weka can read csv files directly which are easily obtained from the tab-delimited files generated by ProtDCal. Additionally, one must append the class column at the end of each line of the file. This can be accomplished easily, for example, using a spreadsheet program such as MS Excel by pasting the column with the class information after the last column of features. Lastly, the column with the name of the instances should be removed to prevent Weka from interpreting this column as another attribute. Finally, the document must be saved in csv format.

Running filters and attribute selection approaches with Weka:

In order to eliminate some trivial features that could be generated, is recommended to first run the unsupervised Weka attribute filter called 'RemoveUseless':


Weka Explorer
Preprocess
Classify
Cluster
Associate
Select attributes
Visualize
Open file...
Open URL...
Open DB...
Generate...
Undo
Edit...
Save...
Filter
Apply
MathExpression
MergeTwoValues
MultiInstanceToPropositional
NominalToBinary
NominalToString
Normalize
NumericCleaner
NumericToBinary
NumericToNominal
NumericTransform
Obfuscate
PartitionedMultiFilter
PKIDiscretize
PrincipalComponents
PropositionalToMultiInstance
RandomProjection
RandomSubset
RELAGGS
Remove
RemoveType
RemoveUseless
Reorder
ReplaceMissingValues
Standardize
StringToNominal
Filter...
Remove filter
Close
Pattern
Remove
Class: class (Nom)
Visualize All
252
0
551
0
404
43
112
121
47
377
628
411
186
217
159
5.26
18.56
31.87
Log
x 0

Selected attribute
Name: Gs(U)_KH_kier3-1.proj_10_N1 Type: Numeric
Missing: 0 (0%) Distinct: 20 Unique: 0 (0%)

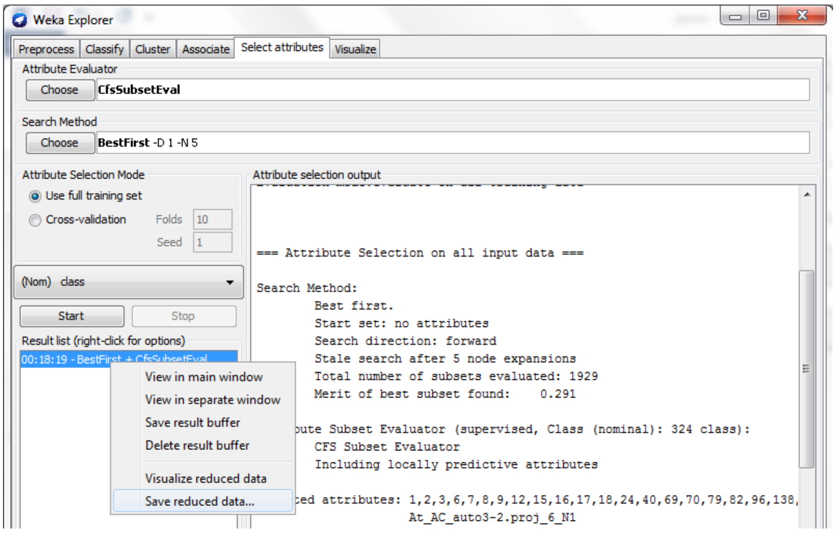
Statistic	Value
Minimum	5.258
Maximum	31.87
Mean	19.516
StdDev	7.761

18	☐	Gs(U)_AC_AC1_UCR_P3
19	☐	Gs(U)_AC_AC1_UCR_DE
20	☐	Mw_AC_AC1_THR_N2
21	☐	IP_AC_AC1_ASN_RA

Status
OK

This filter will eliminate all constant attributes that may be generated by ProtDCal following the project file.

Depending on particular interests and the desired number of attributes, other filters can be applied at this stage. It is recommended to perform a supervised attribute selection approach that analyses the relevancy and redundancy of the features. This can be carried out with a wide range of methods implemented within Weka. Here, we use the attribute selection method called 'CfsSubsetEval' coupled with the 'Bestfirst' search method. The reduced data set can be obtained by right-clicking on the report name at the left panel of the windows and selecting 'Save reduced data':


Weka Explorer
Preprocess
Classify
Cluster
Associate
Select attributes
Visualize
Choose
Choose
Start
Stop
View in main window
View in separate window
Save result buffer
Delete result buffer
Visualize reduced data
Save reduced data...

Attribute Evaluator: CfsSubsetEval

Search Method: BestFirst -D 1 -N 5

Attribute Selection Mode: ● Use full training set ○ Cross-validation Folds 10 Seed 1

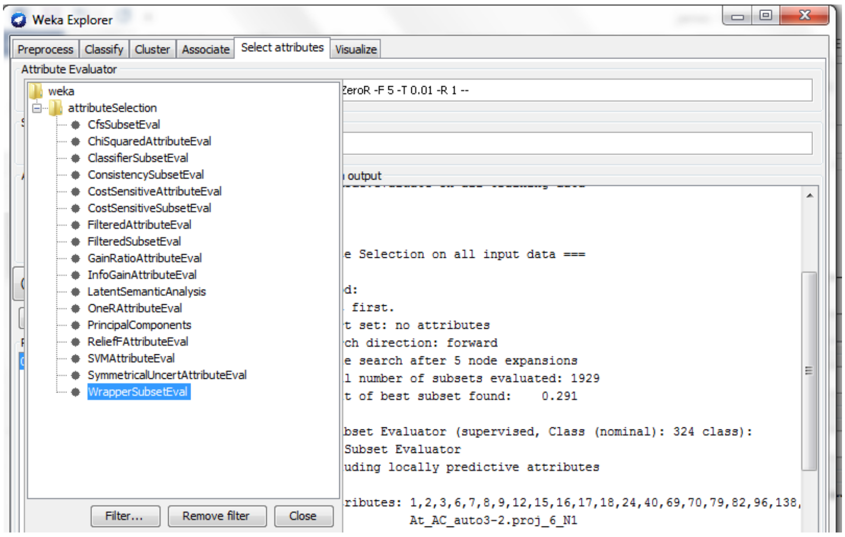
(Nom) class

Result list (right-click for options): 00:18:19 - BestFirst + CfsSubsetEval

Attribute selection output

```
=== Attribute Selection on all input data ===

Search Method:
        Best first.
        Start set: no attributes
        Search direction: forward
        Stale search after 5 node expansions
        Total number of subsets evaluated: 1929
        Merit of best subset found:    0.291

bute Subset Evaluator (supervised, Class (nominal): 324 class):
        CFS Subset Evaluator
        Including locally predictive attributes

ced attributes: 1,2,3,6,7,8,9,12,15,16,17,18,24,40,69,70,79,82,96,138,
                At_AC_auto3-2.proj_6_N1
```

After uploading this reduced subset of features, it is advisable to end by running the 'WrapperSubsetEval' attribute selection approach. Depending on the number of features remaining in your data file, a genetic search may be used within the wrapper. However, if the number of attributes is too high (>100), a 'Bestfirst' search would be preferable for a first reduction. The Wrapper should be executed with the same type of classifier that you intend to use to later use to evaluate your final model over the test data. For the study of N-glycosylation presented in the ProtDCal paper, a genetic search with 50 chromosomes per population and 500 generations was conducted. As for the evaluator, a 'FilteredClassifier' was used, which applies a 'Resample' filter to the training data such that a class-balanced subset is sampled for each cross-validation fold. This subset is used to train a classifier (both NaiveBayes and RandomForest were considered) and evaluate it in the hold-out set during the x-fold iteration of the Wrapper.


Weka Explorer
Preprocess
Classify
Cluster
Associate
Select attributes
Visualize
Attribute Evaluator
weka
attributeSelection
CfsSubsetEval
ChiSquaredAttributeEval
ClassifierSubsetEval
ConsistencySubsetEval
CostSensitiveAttributeEval
CostSensitiveSubsetEval
FilteredAttributeEval
FilteredSubsetEval
GainRatioAttributeEval
InfoGainAttributeEval
LatentSemanticAnalysis
OneRAttributeEval
PrincipalComponents
ReliefFAttributeEval
SVMAttributeEval
SymmetricalUncertAttributeEval
WrapperSubsetEval
Filter...
Remove filter
Close

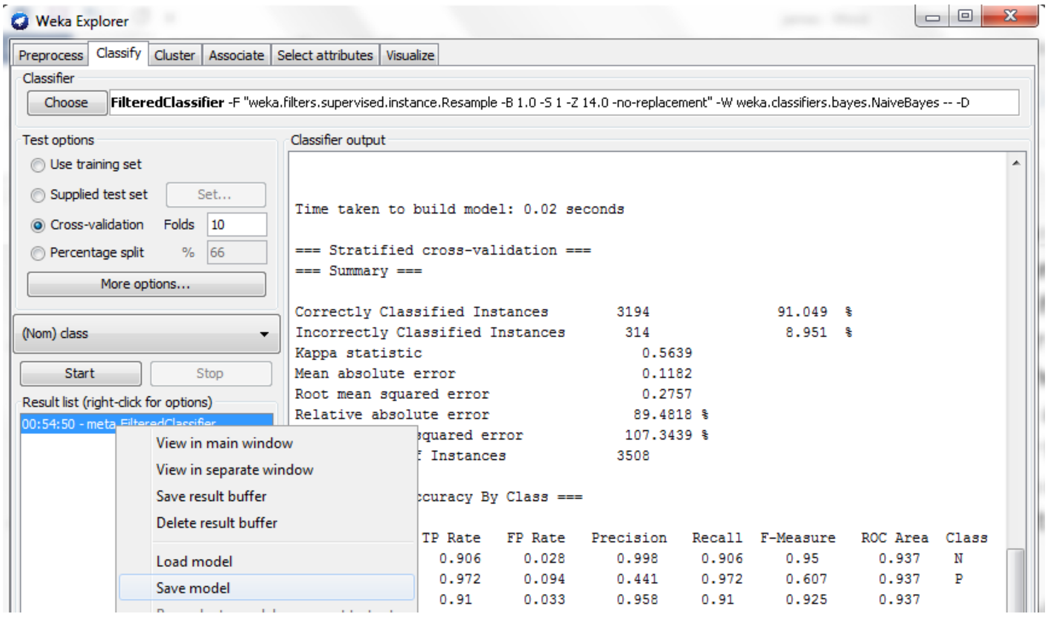
ZeroR -F 5 -T 0.01 -R 1 --

output

```
e Selection on all input data ===

d:
 first.
t set: no attributes
ch direction: forward
e search after 5 node expansions
l number of subsets evaluated: 1929
t of best subset found:    0.291

bset Evaluator (supervised, Class (nominal): 324 class):
Subset Evaluator
uding locally predictive attributes

ributes: 1,2,3,6,7,8,9,12,15,16,17,18,24,40,69,70,79,82,96,138,
         At_AC_auto3-2.proj_6_N1
```

Once the extraction is finished, the reduced subset is saved and used to build the corresponding classifier over all training data using a similar configuration as it was used during the Wrapper. In the 'Classify' panel of Weka there are options to automatically perform x-fold cross-validation, hold-out prediction test by splitting the input data, and external prediction by providing a second set of test instances with the corresponding features and class attribute. This latter option was used to evaluate our final naïve Bayes and random forest classifiers using the blind test data. The classification accuracy is reported in the "Classifier output" section of the Weka environment.

Finally, the resulting classification model can be saved from the report in the left panel as shown below.


Weka Explorer
Preprocess
Classify
Cluster
Associate
Select attributes
Visualize
Classifier
Choose
Test options
Set...
More options...
Start
Stop
Result list (right-click for options)
Classifier output
View in main window
View in separate window
Save result buffer
Delete result buffer
Load model
Save model

FilteredClassifier -F "weka.filters.supervised.instance.Resample -B 1.0 -S 1 -Z 14.0 -no-replacement" -W weka.classifiers.bayes.NaiveBayes -- -D

○ Use training set
○ Supplied test set
● Cross-validation Folds 10
○ Percentage split % 66

(Nom) class

00:54:50 - meta.FilteredClassifier

```
Time taken to build model: 0.02 seconds

=== Stratified cross-validation ===
=== Summary ===

Correctly Classified Instances        3194               91.049  %
Incorrectly Classified Instances       314                8.951  %
Kappa statistic                          0.5639
Mean absolute error                      0.1182
Root mean squared error                  0.2757
Relative absolute error                 89.4818 %
              squared error            107.3439 %
             f Instances              3508

             ccuracy By Class ===

              TP Rate   FP Rate   Precision   Recall  F-Measure   ROC Area  Class
                0.906     0.028     0.998     0.906     0.95      0.937    N
                0.972     0.094     0.441     0.972     0.607     0.937    P
                0.91      0.033     0.958     0.91      0.925     0.937
```

The saved model file can then be used to predict the glycosylation states for any other data set, for which the final features, used in the model, must be previously calculated using ProtDCal. The current (2015) distribution of ProtDCal contains the specific project files to compute each of the features entered in the models described in our report (Y.B. Ruiz-Blanco et al. BMC Bioinformatics, 2015) for N-linked glycosylation.

(1) Ruiz-Blanco, Y. B.; Marrero-Ponce, Y.; Prieto, P. J.; Salgado, J.; García, Y.; Sotomayor-Torres, C. M. *Journal of Theoretical Biology* **2015**, *364*, 407.

(2) Ruiz-Blanco, Y. B.; Marrero-Ponce, Y.; García, Y.; Puris, A.; Bello, R.; Green, J.; Sotomayor-Torres, C. M. *Chemical Physics Letters* **2014**, *610–611*, 135.

(3) Ruiz-Blanco, Y. B.; Marrero-Ponce, Y.; Paz, W.; García, Y.; Salgado, J. *Journal of Theoretical Biology* **2013**, *321*, 44.